

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF LOS ALAMOS UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos  
P.O. Box 158, Los Alamos, NM 87544  
[www.LWVLosAlamos.org](http://www.LWVLosAlamos.org)  
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President: Felicia Orth [orthf@yahoo.com](mailto:orthf@yahoo.com)  
Newsletter: Bob Williams [rawbits2@gmail.com](mailto:rawbits2@gmail.com)

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## ***Calendar***

September 19	National Voter Registration Day
September 21	Lunch with a Leader, Karl Braithwaite, Unitarian Church, noon
September 28	Board Meeting, Unitarian Church, noon (observers welcome)
October 5	Candidate Forum, UNM-LA, 7 p.m. (6:30 p.m. for refreshments)
October 10	Early Voting Begins
October 20	LWVLA Membership Party, 1577 Camino Medio, LA, 5:30 p.m.

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## ***September Lunch with a Leader:*** Karl Braithwaite - Energy and Environment from DC to NM

The League's featured speaker for Lunch with a Leader on September 21 is Karl Braithwaite, who has worked for his long professional life on energy and environmental issues. He will join us in person at the Unitarian Church Fellowship Hall at noon. I will send the menu from Pig & Fig in a week or so. You may order from the menu or bring your own lunch.

Dr. Braithwaite began his career as an assistant professor in political science at Duke University, followed by 10 years in the United States Senate on the staff of the Environment Subcommittee helping to write the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Superfund. He spent 21 years at Los Alamos National Laboratory and 10 years at Sandia National Laboratories. He also was Dean of the Muskie School of Public Service in Portland, Maine, and has taught at a number of universities.

After his retirement 7½ years ago, he began working with the NM Sierra Club on energy, climate, and conservation issues.

*Karyl Ann Armbruster*

# ***President's Message: Opportunities for Fun and Education***

## **Save the Dates for Fall Events**

Join us on October 5, 2023, for a Candidate Forum at UNM-LA. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m., and the Forum begins at 7. We will hear from the candidates for the UNM-LA Advisory Board and the Los Alamos Public Schools Board, along with brief presentations regarding the School bond and the voting schedule.

Join us again on October 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for a general membership gathering, our first purely social event in a few years. RSVPs will be requested, potluck contributions will be welcome, and we plan to have fun!

More details on both events will follow in the October *Update*.

*Felicia Orth*

## ***Voter Registration and Candidate Forum Volunteers***

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos will partner with the Los Alamos County Clerk's Office to register voters at several



*Emily Xu and Alyssa Sun carry the Future Voters banner.  
Photo by Maire O'Neill.*

locations in the County. If you would like to assist in registering voters on this date, please send an email to Felicia Orth at [orthf@yahoo.com](mailto:orthf@yahoo.com) to sign up. Note that volunteers who wish to register voters need to be trained and to fill out paperwork with the Clerk's office. League members who have not been trained may also work with the Clerk's staff in various locations on that day.

The League will hold a Candidate Forum for the November local election on Thursday evening, October 5 at UNM-LA. It is our tradition to provide refreshments for the Forum. If you would like to contribute sweet or savory finger food, please email Wendy Swanson at [w\\_swanson@mac.com](mailto:w_swanson@mac.com)

*Jean Dewart*

## ***Thanks, Jane and Amy!***

If you're one of the few people who receives a hard copy of our UPDATE in the mail, you owe a vote of thanks (and it will be unanimous) to Jane Sherwood for years of picking up the copies, addressing them by hand, and mailing them out.

Now Amy Birnbaum has taken over on this little-known but much-appreciated job with her assistant, Helen Carpenter.

## ***It's Not Too Late to Join the Pit Study***

After the summer's focus on J. Robert Oppenheimer's scientific accomplishments and the legacy of building the first atomic bomb in Los Alamos, we will begin our LWVLA study "Should large scale pit production for nuclear weapons occur in Los Alamos?"

Our first meeting will be on Zoom, and every member is invited. When we have fixed the date and time, we will send an invitation to our study with a Zoom link.

*Jody Benson*

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## ***Observer Corps Report – County Council – Regular Session – August 8, 2023***

The hybrid regular session was attended by the full Council: Chair Denise Derkacs, Vice Chair Theresa Cull, and Councilors Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann, Keith Lepsch, Randall Ryti, and David Reagor. Our observer report is based upon discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda package.

### **Grant Applications for State Funding for Atomic City Transit (ACT)**

Council gave unanimous approval for the Public Works Department to submit two grant applications to the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) to fund Atomic City Transit equipment and services, along with commitment of the County's local match contributions.

The first application seeks funding assistance for the purchase of a new assist replacement vehicle, which will allow the ACT to continue providing enhanced mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The second application requests funding to support administrative, operating, and capital needs of ACT. If awarded, this grant will allow ACT to provide the following transportation services:

- fixed route transit service in Los Alamos and White Rock
- ADA complementary paratransit service within Los Alamos County
- evening demand response (Dial-a-Ride) service to the general public
- shuttle service from White Rock to Bandelier National Monument
- special event services within Los Alamos County

Such grant requests are not new for the County. Since its inception in 2007, ACT has received funds through NMDOT Transit and Rail Division to provide for its administrative, operating, and capital needs. The funds are programmed based upon submission of an annual grant application.

Public Works Director Juan Rael noted that ridership is a significant metric in these grant applications, and that ACT is usually towards the top, if not at the top, in terms of ridership per capita.

### ***Questions from Councilors***

Councilor Havemann asked whether the assist replacement vehicle would be an electric vehicle. James Barela, the Transit Manager, replied that, "At this time, we've selected a vehicle that is not an electric vehicle, but we are looking at electric vehicles for FY26." Rael added that his department is starting a feasibility plan to look at what the transition from diesel to electric transit buses would entail.

Difficulty in recruiting and retaining transit drivers continues to be a limitation for ACT operations. Councilor Cull asked what the County was doing about that issue. Rael said that the County is evaluating what pay is being offered by ACT's regional competitors so that the County can try to raise its own pay offerings. ACT's competitors for bus drivers include NCRTD, Santa Fe Trails, New Mexico Park and Ride and, more recently, LANL. "It's really the starting pay is what we are finding out in talking to the drivers," explained Rael. "It's probably what our biggest roadblock is at this time."

## **Los Alamos County's Prioritized List of Infrastructure Projects for FY25 to the State Legislature**

Council unanimously approved the 2025 State Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) ranking of the top five capital projects to submit to the New Mexico State Department of Finance and Administration. This ranked list is required if the County wants any of its capital infrastructure projects to be eligible for State project funding. If a project is not on this list, it will not be considered. New Mexico's federal delegation staff and federal agencies also look at this list when the County is asking for federal funding for different items.

The full ICIP list of 82 capital infrastructure projects originated from the public, County Council, reports on needs, County departments and County management.

Danielle Duran, Budget and Performance Manager, explained that the ranking focuses on the top five in terms of what the County thinks would do well at the State legislature. She said that it's likely that one or two items from the top five list will end up being on the capital outlay list for the State legislature in 2024.

The top five items on the ICIP list this year are:

- Jemez Mountain Regional Fire Protection System Phase 2 (new water tank and underground electric)
- Replacement of Fire Station 4 (near the golf course)

- DP Road Commercial Development Infrastructure
- North Mesa Low Income Housing Infrastructure
- Regional Transit Center in Los Alamos

In addition to ranking the top five projects, staff also specified the top 20, although not in strict ranked order. The five projects listed following the top five are:

- Fiber Middle Mile & Backbone
- North Mesa/San Ildefonso Road waterline replacement
- Denver Steels Phase 2
- EV charging infrastructure
- Fire Station 6 improvement

Duran explained how these were determined. "When we finished looking at our top five, we looked at the items that we had suggested maybe belonged in the top five, ten, or the top twenty because of urgency, because of the need from the community, and also timing and interest in perhaps pursuing either state or federal funding. For instance, the EV infrastructure project is on here, for which we are pursuing federal funding. We are not planning on pursuing any state funding, but we realize that federal agencies and our federal delegation also look at this list and we wanted to have them relatively highly ranked."

### *Questions from Councilors*

Questions from Councilors generally sought clarification about the rationale for the ranking, wondering why some projects in the top 20 did not make it to the top five. Of particular concern was the relative ranking of two projects related to broadband infrastructure.

Councilor Ryti asked why the fiber middle mile and community broadband projects were ranked so differently (6 and 20, respectively) despite the fact that they appear to be related to each other. Duran explained that, "Item 6 and item 20 are related to each other but the likelihood of receiving State funding for them is vastly different."

Councilor Reagar asked Duran to confirm his understanding of why community



broadband was given the lower ranking. "I think community broadband is the highest priority of the community," he said, "but you don't put it up there because our chances of state funding are so low that it doesn't even need to be on the list [of top 20]." Duran concurred that Los Alamos does not meet the legislature's criteria of economic need nor of being an underserved area, but that the County nonetheless ranked community broadband in the top twenty to reflect that it is extremely important to this community.

Councilor Reagor then asked Duran if the Middle Mile was ranked higher because, as a regional project, it has a better chance for State funding. Duran replied that, "We're not sure it will meet the state requirements, but there may be federal funding or other funding that Middle Mile might be acceptable for. And we do recognize, County managers and department directors and others, that broadband is an extremely important item for this community and for the health and safety of everyone in Los Alamos and the region."

Chair Derkacs summarized the cogent points of the ICIP discussion. "Having served on the state legislative committee, I've been in several of these sessions where we prioritize these things. It is important to point out that everything on this list are things that the County does want to work on, but they are prioritized in order of the projects that we think have the best chance of obtaining state funding in this fiscal year. So, the list frequently varies from year to year. In addition to that, the fact that they may not receive state funding does not mean that the County will not seek other revenue or other means of funding the other projects."

## **Planning and Zoning Commission Appointments**

By roll call vote, Council re-appointed Stephanie Nakhleh and appointed Katherine Bruell and Rebecca White to fill three vacancies on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

## **Process to Recruit New County Manager**

Chair Derkacs reported that Council will follow the same process as was used to recruit Steve Lynne, employing a consulting firm that specializes in local government leadership recruiting. The committee to oversee the process will include the Council's current chair, prior chair, and current vice chair.

## **Local News Coverage**

*Los Alamos Daily Post*, August 10, 2023,  
Video: Councilor Suzie Havemann Recaps  
August 8 Meeting

<https://ladailypost.com/video-councilor-suzie-havemann-recaps-aug-8-meeting/>

*June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin*

## **Observer Corps Reports – County Council – Regular Session – August 22, 2023**

### **Part 1 – Environmental Sustainability Board and Climate Action Plan**

The hybrid work session was attended by the full Council. Our observer report is based upon discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda package.

Council did not take any action during this work session.

## **Environmental Sustainability Board Report**

Shannon Blair, Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB), summarized the ESB's past, current, and future work plans.

The County Council established ESB in June 2008, when its focus was limited to solid waste management. ESB's scope of work was realigned on March 14, 2023, when County Council directed that ESB work with the Sustainability Manager, Angelica Gurule, to

carry out the advice in the 2022 Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy and Sustainability (LARES) Final Report. That recommendation was that the County “create an on-going body of (largely citizen) collaborative stakeholders to advise Council, the Department and Board of Public Utilities, and other relevant County bodies on implementing the goals and strategies recommended in the climate action plan and monitor progress.”

Blair reported that ESB's greatest accomplishment this past year was contributing to the Environmental Services municipal food waste composting feasibility study. ESB subsequently recommended to County Council that the County implement a windrow composting program in Bayo Canyon. Council approved this recommendation in September 2022. (See Observer Report in October 2022 *Update*.)

ESB also contributed to the roll out of Operation Save the Bears, which involved distribution of bear-resistant dumpsters and carts; continued monitoring the Yard Trimming Roll Cart Program, which diverted 884 tons of yard trimming material in 2022; and continued implementation of a wide range of Zero Waste Initiatives. More recently, initiatives started by ESB's Bee City team, such as its popular Seed Library and its efforts to have the County meet eligibility requirements to become an affiliate of Bee City USA, have been garnering increased attention.

ESB's top five priorities in FY24, which largely mirror the priority focus areas of the Sustainability Manager, are to

- contribute to the development of the Greenhouse Gas Baseline Analysis and Climate Action Plan (see below).
- evaluate and contribute to implementation of recommendations in the LARES Final Report (see Observer Report in March 2022 *Update*);
- contribute to implementation of the municipal food composting program (see Observer Report in March 2023 *Update*);
- continue monitoring the Integrated Pest Management Plan and provide input as

necessary (see Observer Reports in April 2022 and April 2023 *Updates*); and

- continue to strengthen relationships with the Board and Department of Public Utilities to support procurement of clean energy, conservation of water and energy, and preservation of drinking water quality.

The transition to its new, much broader scope of work presents a big challenge to ESB. "This really is our heavy lift," said Blair, "trying to figure out what we can do as a Board, how we can best serve you all [County Council] and the community."

Noting that the ESB has "a lot on its plate," Councilor Ryti proposed that the Board add an element to its future work plan to develop metrics for monitoring progress of the County's various sustainability initiatives.

Ryti also suggested that ESB consider how sustainability initiatives could be more holistically integrated into a broader range of County activities. As an example, he noted the challenge of integrating sustainability activities when the County's goals appear to be somewhat at odds, such as the goals of protecting open space while also promoting the need for more development. "A lot of things have different conflicts and tradeoffs," said Ryti, "and it's a matter of what things can we better utilize in the County, and what things can we direct." Ryti urged ESB to present itself as a venue for people to bring up ideas they have. "It's slightly less intimidating than having to stand there and be in front of Council, when you only have three minutes," he said.

## **Sustainability Office Overview**

County Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule provided Council with an overview of initiatives that are currently underway. The long-term goals of these and future initiatives are to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and advance other sustainable practices. Gurule's activities are guided by the many recommendations presented in the 2022 LARES Final Report.

### *Sustainability network*

Gurule has established a strong network to help her, including

- Urban Sustainability Director's Network (USDN). The USDN includes local governments across the country that are working on different sustainability and climate initiatives, and is strong in providing grant opportunities, webinars, and support on any items that might be needed.
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). ICLEI is a worldwide network of sustainability leaders. Gurule's project team is using ICLEI's tool, called ClearPath, to help with preparation of the Greenhouse Gas Analysis and Climate Action Plan.
- Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico. As a participant, Gurule said, "I can call anybody across the state and get an answer on the other line."

Gurule coordinates her initiatives with DPU's Energy and Water Conservation Coordinator, Abbey Hayward. She also works with other NM municipalities to understand some of their initiatives, starting with Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces.

### *Sustainability focus areas*

Gurule summarized her top five priority sustainability focus areas:

- preparing the Climate Action Plan and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (see below),
- food composting design and implementation,
- prioritizing and implementing LARES recommendations,
- investigating EV charging infrastructure at the Golf Course and for the County fleet, and
- pursuing Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and other funding opportunities.

Regarding funding opportunities, Gurule commented that, "If any of you have ever applied for a federal grant, it's a heavy lift. The application alone is about 60-odd pages. So, with the help of many County folks, we've

applied for a Solid Waste Infrastructure Grant for Food Composting (\$4M) and a Charging Fueling Network Grant for EV Infrastructure (\$4M)." Gurule specifically acknowledged the extensive support she's gotten from the Public Utilities and Public Works Departments.

Gurule is keeping a close watch on funding opportunities provided through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). She is currently looking into the County's eligibility for various Clean Energy Tax Credits and for obtaining funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

## **Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan**

In June 2023, the County contracted with Cascadia Consulting Group to provide a County-wide comprehensive Greenhouse Gas baseline study and to inform the County about climate action plan strategies and actions for a more sustainable future. Primary points of contact in the County are Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule as County Liaison, Deputy County Manager Linda Matteson, and Conservation Coordinator Abbey Hayward.

The goals of tonight's presentation were to provide overviews of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) development process, the public engagement component, and the methodology for the greenhouse gas (GHG) study.

### *Climate action plan (CAP)*

Cascadia Project Manager Andrea Martin provided an outline of the CAP development process and the daunting schedule for its completion by October 2024. She said that the CAP will provide a strategic framework that includes a suite of actions that the County can take to achieve its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to climate change. CAP focus areas typically include things such as:

- Mobility, transportation, and land use, which aims to reduce GHG emissions by improving the efficiency of modes of transportation;
- Buildings and energy, which includes transitioning to renewable energy sources and making buildings more energy-efficient;

- Waste and materials management, which aims to improve sustainable consumption and reduce waste;
- Natural resources, which presents strategies to create climate-resilient natural landscapes, store more carbon and use water sustainably;
- Community resilience, which aims to build resilience to climate change impacts like extreme heat or drought, and improve community well-being.

The process of developing the CAP includes a combination of technical analysis, qualitative research, and public and stakeholder engagement. Martin listed preliminary steps in the planning process:

- Develop an Outreach Plan that outlines public and stakeholder goals and identifies key audiences,
- Complete GHG inventories for both communitywide emissions as well as emissions from County operations,
- Complete a future emissions forecast and analysis to illustrate how different climate strategies would lower GHG emissions over time, and
- Complete a cost-benefit analysis of identified strategies and actions, to ensure that those included in the CAP can provide the County with the best return on investment.

Martin said that the Project Team will use the baseline GHG inventories, emissions forecasts, and cost-benefit analysis to identify concrete, sector-specific goals and metrics that the County can take to achieve its overarching climate and sustainability goals.

The final step of the CAP development process is to bring all of this information together to identify and prioritize strategies and actions for the plan. The draft and final CAP developed by the project team will then be presented for Council adoption.

The timeline for these tasks is ambitious, with the goals of presenting draft actions to Council for budgeting in April 2024 and completing the entire project by October 2024.

### *Outreach Plan*

GHG Emissions and Strategy Analyst Jenna Decker provided an overview of the Outreach Plan, which will help to ensure that the final CAP reflects the County's priorities by engaging members of the public, internal County staff, and external County stakeholders, including LANL and Los Alamos Public Schools, throughout the planning process.

Decker described the extensive activities in the Outreach Plan. "We plan to work objectively and consistently with the community and stakeholder groups to ensure that concerns are understood and considered in the County's planning process by hosting an interactive community workshop, hosting additional focus groups and interviews, and having discussions at Council and Board meetings," she said. Focus groups will include representatives from the ESB, LARES, the Board of Public Utilities, and other stakeholder groups.

To refine the strategies and actions for the final CAP and transition to implementation planning, Decker said the final phase of the Outreach Plan will help the County create a working partnership with internal and external stakeholder groups who will continue to meet regularly into the future.

### *Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory*

Decker proceeded to describe the GHG inventories' methodology. The study results will allow the County to determine its GHG baseline and establish feasible reduction targets.

She explained how GHG emissions will be quantified for three different types of inventories.

- Geographic community-wide emissions include those generated within the County's boundaries by activities such as transportation, heating & and cooling of buildings, solid waste disposal, and wastewater treatment.
- Consumption-based (CBEI) emissions include the upstream emissions generated



anywhere in the world by County residents' purchased goods, services, and travel.

- County operations emissions are those occurring from County operations, including the County fleet, energy consumption, solid waste disposal, wastewater treatment, and County-operated utilities.

Decker said that Cascadia performs its emission inventories following best practices, citing the U.S. Community Protocol (USCP), the Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP), and a combination of the EcoDataLab and CoolClimate approach. She described the latter as a custom-built econometric approach that models consumer behavior based on household demographics and local geography.

Decker provided detailed descriptions of the methodologies used to estimate emissions from specific sources in the County. For example, to calculate emissions from public transit vehicles, the team will collect data for the gallons consumed by vehicle and fuel type, and apply fuel-specific emissions factors. Emissions from the generation of solid waste and its transport to the landfill will be determined from tonnage, landfill and waste characteristics, and transportation data collected from Public Works, multiplied by EPA's Waste Reduction Model (WARM) emissions factors. Similarly, emissions from the County's wastewater treatment facilities will be determined from facility-specific consumption and treatment processes, multiplied by treatment-specific emissions factors.

"Once the GHG emissions inventories have been finalized," said Decker, "we'll be taking the results of that to model emissions out to 2050 under different scenarios." This is also known as a GHG Wedge Forecast. The model forecasts impacts under three scenarios:

- Business-as-usual (no action future). This scenario assumes no action is taken to reduce emissions.
- Adjusted business-as-usual (policy scenario). This scenario assumes no

action is taken beyond implementing federal, state, and regional policies.

- Emissions gap (additional targets and scenarios). The emissions gap is the difference between emissions under the business-as-usual scenario and the emission reduction targets. "This is where we can model additional actions that can be taken to close that emissions gap," said Decker.

### *Questions from Council*

Councilor Cull asked, "Are we talking about addressing only what the County government does, or are we talking about a Countywide plan that might involve the Laboratory, for example, and the people that commute to the Laboratory every day? The County operations themselves are pretty minor compared to what we're dealing with across the bridge. If it does include a Countywide plan, how are we going to involve our biggest employer here on the Hill?" Following up, Councilor Ryti noted that a lot of people who live in Santa Fe County (SFC) work here and asked whether SFC's CAP had addressed to some extent what the impacts are of its commuting population in terms of GHG emissions.

Martin reiterated that the CAP would be a Countywide plan. "It will touch on County operations because we think it is important to look at County operations as a leader in the broader community," she said, "but it will also include the entire community within the County, including the Laboratory." Although she wasn't familiar with SFC's CAP, she said that Los Alamos's CAP will be focused on the impacts of County employee commutes on GHG emissions. It will not focus on emissions generated by LANL's commuting population because the County does not have jurisdiction over the Laboratory activities. However, LANL will be invited to be involved in the community key stakeholder group to be formed soon.

Councilor Ryti noted that the DPU and BPU had previously reviewed LARES recommendations and agreed to take the lead on several of them. Ryti asked whether there were any orphaned recommendations for which no one in the County government has

taken responsibility. Gurule responded that LARES recommendations for reducing the use of natural gas did not fall under the purview of either BPU or ESB. However, BPU had recommended that this issue be directed to the Planning and Zoning Commission because it has jurisdiction over new buildings, which would be the only way to regulate a reduction in the use of natural gas for new construction.

Gurule said that it would be up to Council to make any further decisions about other orphan issues in the final Climate Action Plan.

Councilors Ryti and Havemann both expressed concern that interim recommendations for potential CAP action items as budget options might not be ready in time to include in the budget book that will be printed at the end of March for County budget hearings in April 2024. The councilors felt that it would be important to include funding requests for these options in the printed budget book because, otherwise, the public will not be aware of the options until they are presented for discussion at the budget hearings. Ryti noted that "It does help with visibility and transparency if they are in the budget book as opposed to coming in at the end." Havemann added that it was important to be proactive with placeholders to support the initiatives that might be proposed. Gurule said she would see if it would be feasible to expedite the project's timeline sufficiently to include budget options in the budget book.

Havemann asked if the consultant had any lessons learned when it had done CAP development with other communities similar to Los Alamos. She was interested in hearing about "roadblocks, obstacles, things that we can do as a local government and/or as elected officials on County Council, or with volunteers of our various boards, to support you so that we can make sure that this is successful."

Martin replied that one lesson learned is making sure that sufficient time, resources, and thought are dedicated to intentional, strategic, and inclusive engagement. "It's important to us through this process that we don't just engage with the minority of people who might always show up to a large public meeting," she said.

"We want to make sure that we can reach everyone in the community." To do so, she continued, "we are really trying to pursue a large variety of engagement approaches and techniques, from large workshops and surveys all the way down to one-on-one interviews and focus groups."

Martin continued, "Another lesson learned would be around implementation, ensuring that there is sufficient focus and time on planning for the implementation phase of the plan once it is finalized. The stakeholder group that I mentioned will be an important piece of that, where we have brought together people who will ultimately have a part in implementing the plan, and making sure they are brought onboard and have bought into what's in the plan early on and well before the plan is drafted and certainly before it is finalized." She explained that they will develop a detailed implementation plan with a step-by-step roadmap showing how to implement the plan. It will include information such as cost, who would be responsible for the various steps, who would be important partners, and any other considerations that they identify during the engagement process.

## Part 2 – Nuisance Code and Airport Changes

Philip Gursky, Chair of the Nuisance Code Implementation Review Task Force (NCIRTF), presented an interim report on activities and observations regarding the County's implementation of its revised Nuisance Code that went into effect in January (See Observer Reports in the December 2022 and March 2023 *Updates*). Thus far, the 5-member group of citizens has reviewed a random selection of 50% of the cases of code violations filed through June 30.

In addition to continuing its case reviews, tracking the numbers of cases and their closure rates, and documenting commonalities among cases, Gursky said the Task Force will conduct more intensive investigation of some cases where it has noted issues or concerns,

including potentially contacting people who were cited to hear about their experience and what additional information they may have needed to resolve their case.

The Task Force will sunset on April 2, 2024, when its final report to Council is due. That report will provide an analysis of trends and will include recommendations for a few changes to the Code to clarify the process and provide better documentation. The Task Force is likely to recommend that the County provide closure letters to those cited once their case has been resolved, clarifying that no further action is required on their part. The group is also investigating whether courtesy letters could provide information about resources available to provide assistance with compliance, which would also require a Code revision.

Noting that accumulation of litter and garbage has been by far the highest category of citations issued since the revised code went into effect, Chair Derkacs suggested that the Task Force might consider recommending that this somewhat qualitative code requirement be defined more clearly.

Gursky expressed the Task Force's appreciation for assistance from County staff, particularly County Planning Manager Sobia Sayeda, CDD Senior Management Analyst Adrienne Lovato, and Code Enforcement Officers Antoinette Padilla and Eric Abeyta.

## **Taxiway F Relocation Project and West Development Area at the Los Alamos County Airport**

Airport Manager Bobbi Huseman described parts of the County's airport that are non-compliant with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety standards. The airport's consultant, Cheryl Rodriguez of Delta Airport Consultants, presented several proposals that would bring the airport into compliance with FAA standards by relocating and constructing a partial parallel taxiway, which would require removal of the fuel farm and hangars along the existing taxiway. Rodriguez also provided construction cost estimates, described project constraints and concerns, and summarized public comments.

The alternative proposals differ with respect to design layouts that, to varying extents, would rectify other airport safety hazards as well as add badly needed hangar space and other upgrades to the airport. Although the options that maximize the number of new hangars would require relocating a segment of the primary access road that serves the Airport's Terminal Building, the airport manager and consultant assured Council that the existing Pueblo Canyon Rim Trail would not be impacted in any scenario, beyond the removal of some mature trees along the northern perimeter of existing parking lots and the Pueblo Canyon Rim Trail. The majority of these trees are scrub oak and invasive Siberian elms. The consultant stated that any final design would minimize the removal of desirable trees identified in the site survey but, in adherence to the latest version of LAC Tree Preservation and Mitigation Policy, undesirable trees impacted by the project are not required to be mitigated.

Council was asked for guidance on which plan it preferred. Four Councilors expressed a preference for the two proposals that provided the maximum number of hangars. The other three councilors opted to reserve judgment until more details were available.

## **Local News Coverage**

*Los Alamos Daily Post*, August 24, 2023,  
Video: Councilor Lepsch Discusses Tuesday Work Session,  
<https://ladailypost.com/video-councilor-lepsch-discusses-tuesday-work-session/>

*June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin*

# **Observer Corps Report – County Council – Regular Session – August 29, 2023**

## **Part 1 – North Central Regional Transit District**

The hybrid regular session was attended by the full Council. Our observer report is based upon discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda package.

Tony Mortillaro, Executive Director of NCRTD, provided an overview of the iconic “Blue Bus” system that serves north-central New Mexico, outlined the district’s challenges, and offered a look at its plans for future growth.

NCRTD connects Española, Taos, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe with free public transportation. The District’s service area extends over 10,000 square miles, serving 67 communities, including several pueblos.

NCRTD ridership peaked in 2015, dipped during COVID, and is now on the increase, although it has not yet reached the pre-COVID peak. “Our limiting factor is that we still have approximately 13 of our 26 routes suspended due to driver shortages,” Mortillaro said. One of the suspended routes is the route to Los Alamos County. “We look forward to eventually redeploying those routes once we’ve hired drivers to provide that service,” he said.

The district has begun a project to remodel and expand its operations and maintenance facility in Española—the Jim West Regional Transit Center—and is constructing a new facility in Taos. Mortillaro added that “Jim West was a Los Alamos County councilor. He served on our Board for a number of years and was very involved in regional efforts related to the RTD.” The expanded Española facility not only provides NCRTD with the capability to maintain its fleet in-house, but also allows NCRTD to undertake maintenance for other federally-funded transit systems throughout the region, including Atomic City Transit.

One project that caught the attention of councilors was the two partnerships which NCRTD had entered into to provide workforce housing near its operations center. A partnership between NCRTD and the North Central Economic Development District (NCEDD) has the goal of constructing affordable workforce housing on a three-acre property owned by NCRTD, while a separate partnership with the City of Española aims to develop market-rate housing on the adjacent six-acre city-owned property. “We’ve been working in conjunction with them [Española], utilizing the same consultant to master plan this area,” said Mortillaro. “We’ll be using our housing for recruitment and retention purposes for the District. These will not be for sale but will be rental units.”

NCRTD will be adding 13 electric buses and vans and three hybrid diesel-electric buses to its fleet in 2024, as well as EV charging facilities. Its newly-completed Zero Emissions Vehicle Transition Plan calls for an all-electric fleet of 95 vehicles by 2045.

With a 20-year horizon, the NCRTD Long-Range Strategic Plan calls for the provision of bus rapid transit service (BRT) connecting the region’s major urban centers. BRT would expand service on existing routes. Instead of two-hour frequencies, buses would run on 15-minute frequencies during peak transit hours, with 30-minute non-peak service, as well as adding weekend service and longer operating hours, until 10 pm on weekdays. Mortillaro added that, “Based on the LANL implementation study that we’re involved in right now with the Lab, we will also be looking at adding a route from Española to White Rock. There isn’t a specific date for that; it will depend on the ability to get drivers to provide that service.”

### *Council discussion*

Councilor Reagor asked Mortillaro what actions NCRTD was taking to address its driver shortage, commenting that the Atomic City Transit and the Laboratory have the same problem.

Mortillaro said that NCRTD needs 65 bus drivers, but currently has about 30. NCRTD



has attempted to address the shortage by increasing its starting wages to \$20 per hour for CDL (commercial driver's license) drivers. It gave its drivers increases of 11% last year and 8.5% this year and added a provision for a split shift differential. It also provided drivers with \$3,000 retention bonuses and offered \$2,000 recruitment bonuses. A market rate study completed about six months ago showed that NCRTD is already close to the top of the range for entry-level pay for public-transit drivers in the region. "But we realize that we're going to have to take another look at it in this upcoming year and ascertain what we are going to do" to stay competitive in this market, he said. "We just can't compete with the Lab. We can't pay \$26 an hour like they pay for their drivers."

Councilor Hand thanked Mortillaro for what NCRTD does to service its district and for sharing information with the County. "I think we really need to continue to think regionally in how we support not only the Laboratory but even our own community," she said. "I think that transportation is going to be key for getting a lot of the workers around the County to support all the services that we need. We don't have enough housing and we don't have affordable housing for many, so regional is the way to go."

## Part 2 – North Mesa Housing Project

Paul Andrus, Community Development Director, provided an update on the status of the North Mesa Housing Project, for which planning has been ongoing since 2019. Council unanimously expressed its support for moving forward on the project by having County staff draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and Los Alamos Public Schools, which owns the property, about how work on the project would proceed.

The proposed housing project is centered on LAPS-owned property on North Mesa east of the Los Alamos Middle School. Its two primary goals are to create affordable housing

for school, County, and medical center employees, and to generate recurring revenue for LAPS through the development and use of its lands, similar to what was done for the Smith's development. The final study concept envisions between 200 and 400 housing units, including apartments, town homes, and attached single-family homes. Andrus said, "One of the targets in terms of beneficiaries for a project like this is called the 'Missing Middle.'" Those are the households whose income is too high to qualify for the affordable housing projects on DP Road but not high enough to afford market-rate housing.

The high-level concept for this development calls for land to be set aside for a future elementary school as well as land to be used for existing school and community-wide recreational uses. Andrus elaborated on this last point, noting a desire to preserve current recreational activities such as the cross-country track while developing part of the property.

Dan Ungerleider, Economic Development Administrator, presented conclusions of the County's analysis of the housing market and financial aspects of the North Mesa Housing Project. This study showed that the North Mesa property could be feasibly developed to provide missing middle housing, affordable workforce housing for school and County employees, and some market-rate housing.

However, he said, proceeding with the housing project will require a partnership with the County. LAPS is not eligible to finance, create, and maintain subsidized affordable housing under the State Affordable Housing Act and the County's Affordable Housing Ordinance, so the proposed path forward is for the County to take on these roles, subject to LAPS agreement. County staff is recommending proceeding with a land lease deal rather than creating a Community Land Trust model.

The question posed to Council was whether they wished to proceed with an agreement with LAPS to continue the project and to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this fall.

### *Council discussion*

Councilor Cull asked if other sites owned by LAPS have been considered for affordable housing, such as the Canyon and Pueblo Schools. Andrus replied that, from the start, North Mesa had always been the primary focus from the perspective of the County and the School Board. County Manager Steven Lynne added that the primary focus was on North Mesa because it is open space, which makes it attractive for new development. Lynne reported that, more recently, County staff, community members, and school administration and staff are starting to express a lot more interest in redevelopment opportunities for the school's other properties. "One of my hopes," said Lynne, "is that a successful start to this project would really be a catalyst and a greenlight to diving into some of those other properties for redevelopment and housing opportunities and continued revenues for the schools. [However,] all the other sites currently have facilities that are generating revenue for them, so it adds a layer of complexity to not disrupt the existing revenue stream." The North Mesa property is currently not providing any revenue for the schools.

Councilor Ryti asked what was the major downside about the Community Land Trust model that had been recommended by the County's consultant. Andrus replied that he had spoken with communities that had established a land trust. "There's a lot of elements in terms of formation and governance and ongoing governance and maintenance of the organization itself," he reported. The models have been successful if they have a strong central organization. The consensus of staff was that the desired outcomes of the housing project could be achieved without the added bureaucracy of a tripartite governance structure that then must be staffed and maintained as a separate entity.

Councilor Ryti noted that the North Mesa property would not provide a revenue stream to the schools if it were 100% affordable housing and that a portion of the proposed housing would have to be at market rate to help finance the affordable housing. Given that construction costs have become substantially higher since

completion of the County's feasibility study in 2021, Ryti asked how those economic changes might affect the study's conclusion about how many affordable housing units could be built on the property. Lynne answered that, assuming they proceed, "at some point the County, acting as master developer, would go out and solicit bids, get a proposal." That is when they will learn if it's feasible. The County would then make the decision of whether it should proceed with the project as envisioned, based on the market response to its solicitation.

Councilor Havemann expressed that there was a need for the County to formulate details in the MOU about how the project would follow its specified guiding principles. She said that it was essential that the MOU ensure that there is a mechanism to provide this affordable housing for the long term, unlike what happened to the Piñon Trails project.

Lynne ended by saying, "We are looking for a signal from the School Board that it is interested in moving forward with this project...gauging the level of interest. We will be asking if it is interested in seeing an MOU. The same question goes to Council tonight."

All of the councilors supported having the County move ahead on this project by preparing an MOU. Chair Derkacs emphasized that, while Council was in favor and the proposed housing was sorely needed, "the property belongs to the schools so, they have the ultimate control over all of this."

### Part 3 – Regional Planning

At the request of Council, Economic Development Administrator Dan Ungerleider provided a high-level overview of Los Alamos County's extensive regional planning activities, focusing on housing, transportation, workforce development, broadband, and general economic development initiatives. Most County residents may be unaware of the extensive scope and impact that these regional planning activities have for Los Alamos.

## *Housing*

The need for worker housing tops the list of urgent issues not only for Los Alamos but also for other local governments in the region. Ungerleider singled out the primary obstacles for new housing as being the limited availability of land in Los Alamos, the need to pay for infrastructure to support new development, and the difficulty of attracting capital or developers to finance housing projects in the region.

The problem of land availability is particularly acute in Los Alamos. Ungerleider reported that LANL recently surveyed its new employees about housing. "LANL learned very quickly that 50% of these employees would like to own a single-family home," said Ungerleider. "That's not likely going to happen here. So, we're going to have to look for opportunities elsewhere, off the Hill. The good news is our partners and our neighbors are all at the table with us, trying to figure out how to solve the problem."

The Prince Ranch property owned by the City of Española is a good example of a regional planning effort in which the County has been involved that illustrates not only the opportunities but also the challenges for developing new housing in the region. Ungerleider recounted how a large group of regional partners met recently in Española to look at the 80-acre piece of property and figure out how to make this development happen, and how to get it on the market. The partners realized that the problem is how to pay for the necessary infrastructure networks—the sewer, the water, the streets.

At the request of Los Alamos County and other local municipalities and partners, LANL produced a Housing Demand & Demographics Report. That survey has been quite helpful, said Ungerleider. "We've been emailing it out and sharing it with developers and investors throughout the country, trying to help them understand just what the demand level is for the region, based on the Laboratory's growth."

## *Transportation*

Addressing regional transportation needs has arguably posed an even more intractable problem. "Since the County doesn't have the

housing here," said Ungerleider, "it is trying to develop new ways of getting people safely up the Hill to get to work—not just LANL employees, but also those who work for the County, the Hospital, the University, schools and local businesses."

Ungerleider reported that LANL is working with transportation planners at Texas A&M to get a grasp on what its needs are as it continues to grow. LANL is working aggressively to encourage its workers to use public transit instead of personal vehicles. One mass transit option being set up by LANL is express bussing from the Black Mesa and Cities of Gold parking lots to take LANL employees directly to its on-site TA-3 Transit Center.

However, as an alternative mass transit option, County staff will be working with its consultant to determine the feasibility and potential locations for transit centers in downtown Los Alamos and White Rock. Ungerleider emphasized that "this is very important because, if the Laboratory were to address the transit issue on their own, they would be bussing their staff directly into the Lab, rather than stopping at our businesses and, what I like to refer to as buying breakfast burritos. So, we want to make sure that we are integrated into their transit model."

## *Workforce development*

Ungerleider noted that, "Workforce development is something that impacts us in building homes, driving buses, serving our schools and our childcare needs and so on. It hits us in everything. It's prevalent in every challenge that we have."

Consequently, the County has entered into partnerships on and off the Hill to address workforce development needs. The Counties of Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Rio Arriba, along with eight northern pueblos, have been accepted into the Communities of Excellence National Learning Collaboration Program. During this three-year program, these communities will work together to develop effective methods for addressing workforce development issues.

Another new partnership aims to create the Northern New Mexico Workforce Integration Network (WIN) with the objective of expanding the region's healthcare and skilled trades workforce through training, apprenticeships, higher education, and job placement. The partnership includes North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD), Regional Development Corporation (RDC) and Santa Fe Community College. This cohort was awarded a \$6.4M Good Jobs Challenge grant, one of the American Rescue Plan programs of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (US EDA).

Los Alamos and its neighboring jurisdictions will also benefit from the initiative of Dr. Mike Holtzclaw, the chancellor at UNM-LA, who is working with his fellow universities and schools off the Hill to figure out a way to help feed the healthcare and childcare pipeline. These local educational institutions are well-positioned to attract, support, and train future healthcare providers for the region.

### *Broadband*

Lynne briefly summarized the County's involvement in regional efforts to develop a robust broadband network infrastructure. For the County, the focus has been on the Middle Mile, which refers to the internet feed coming into the County from the outside.

The County is a member of REDINet, which is a high-speed, open access, community broadband network located in Northern New Mexico. It is owned and operated by a consortium of local and tribal governments. Lynne said that he expects an expanded role for REDINet when the state starts deploying the federal dollars and state dollars that are available for backbone middle mile improvements throughout the state.

Another possibility that Lynne mentioned is, should LANL succeed in its efforts to get a third electrical transmission line into the Lab, to piggyback on that by overlaying it with fiber. The County would also seek to be involved in whatever other fiber projects LANL may pursue.

### *Economic development*

Ungerleider described the County's involvement with two regional economic development organizations: the Regional Development Corporation (RDC) and the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD).

RDC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving economic development in northern New Mexico. It provides private investment opportunities and technical assistance to facilitate growth and diversify the economies of communities in seven counties, including Los Alamos, and in the Native American pueblos. Ungerleider is working with RDC's Executive Director to update RDC's Regional Economic Development Initiative Plan, which he will be bringing forward to Council.

One way that RDC supports small businesses is through a program that awards microgrants of up to \$3,000 each. Most recently, Los Alamos businesses receiving such microgrants included Anthenography, Beanie's Bike Shop, Jona Manufacturing Services, Mesa Top Games & Toys, Pearl's Place and Samizdat Bookstore & Teahouse. Ungerleider said, "It's helping our businesses as well as helping the businesses off the Hill."

NCNMEDD is a regional council of governments for Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Colfax, Mora, San Miguel, Los Alamos, and Sandoval Counties. It assists local governments with economic development projects and initiatives, serves as a conduit to US EDA funding, and manages a plethora of other grants.

Ungerleider serves on the NCNMEDD Board of Directors on behalf of the County, alongside Jim Hall, who is on its Executive Board. "It's unbelievable," Ungerleider said, "the amount of grant management that they do. They also received a grant to help us apply for grants, as well as the communities that belong within their region....I think there's a lot of value for us to continue supporting and being part of that group."



### *Healthcare and social services*

Healthcare is another need throughout the region. Councilor Ryti noted, "that's a national issue, but it could be solved regionally maybe more readily than within any one jurisdiction."

Lynne agreed with Ryti that some of the County's healthcare gaps are likely to be most appropriately solved regionally. Referring to analyses by the County Health Council, Lynne pointed out that, in some healthcare areas of focus for the County, there are not enough customers in Los Alamos for it to move forward on its own. Lynne added that a related issue is the potential for a regional detention center and affiliated services associated. He said that, since we have our own detention facility, we might not initially consider participating in a regional center, but the affiliated services, including healthcare and mental health care, might be useful.

### *Concluding statement*

Ungerleider and Lynne stressed that what they were finding in their conversations with other local governments in the region is that they all are dealing with the same issues, although often on different levels of magnitude. Ungerleider concluded by emphasizing that the County is being quite proactive in having conversations with its regional partners about ways to address these shared needs and concerns. He added that he is intrigued by the positive response from the other communities. "It's all becoming more and more a regional conversation."

*June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin*

## **Observer Corps Report – Planning & Zoning Commission – August 23, 2023**

The Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission meeting was attended by Chair Rachel Adler and Commissioners Karen Easton, Katherine Bruell, David Hampton, Benjamin Hill,

Charlene Hutchison, and Stephanie Nakhleh as well as Councilor David Reagor. Commissioners Neal Martin and Rebecca White were absent.

The Commission last met on April 26, 2023. More recently, County Council re-appointed Commissioner Nakhleh for a second term and appointed Commissioners Bruell and White for first terms.

### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair Adler was re-elected for a second term as Chair, and Commissioner Nakhleh was elected as Vice Chair. The vote was unanimous.

### **Short-term Rentals**

Paul Andrus, Director of the Community Development Department (CDD), reported that CDD is tracking the experience of other municipalities in New Mexico before drafting a new ordinance to regulate short-term rentals in Los Alamos County.

He said that the extent to which the draft ordinance will be straightforward will depend upon the level of regulation that the community and Council want to see. "The short-term rental discussion is very similar to land-use law challenges and discussions that have happened since zoning started. This is just one of the latest discussions about private property use. As it gets challenged, we want to make sure we keep our eye on what's going on, particularly in the state, and use that as some of our real-world data."

The County Council will be updated on the process at its meeting on September 5, when it will have an opportunity to provide additional guidance to CDD. The draft ordinance would come to P&Z for consideration and for providing a recommendation to Council regarding its adoption. (See also our observer report for the 2/28/23 Council meeting in the *March Update*.)

### **Status of New Housing Projects**

Andrus reported on the status of two housing projects currently underway in which the County is a partner. The Bluffs, an affordable senior housing project, is

approaching completion. The builder expects to be ready to accept pre-leasing agreements in October/November, with move-in dates in December. "I hope they are able to do it because we desperately need those units," commented Andrus. "We're getting calls all the time about it." The Hill Apartments (at the former DOE Headquarters site off of Trinity Drive) are expected to be completed in mid-2024.

Senior Planner Sobia Sayeda reported that the developer of the Arbolada subdivision (San

Ildefonso Road in North Mesa Community) is in the process of submitting an application for site work, which will permit it to start putting infrastructure in place. (See also our observer report in the February *Update* for the public hearing on this planned development held by P&Z at its 1/11/23 meeting.)

*June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin*



1Ready for the parade. Left to right: Hedy Dunn, Wendy Swanson, Becky Shankland, Lynn Jones, Mark Jones, Barbara Calef, Susan Fowler, Ellen Mills, Magnolia Allen (with candy for kids), Jody Benson, Elizabeth Allen. Photo by Leo Jaramillo

# ***August Lunch with a Leader: County Clerk Naomi Maestas and Allan Saenz of SALA***

## **County Clerk**

The LWL program at the Unitarian Church began with a brief update from County Clerk Naomi Maestas, who has worked in the office since 2005, except for a brief hiatus in 2013-2014. She is currently serving her second term. Maestas reeled off the dates leading up to the November 7 local election, when voters will choose three LA School Board members and two UNM-LA Advisory Board members. There will also be a school bond question and Mirador residents may be able to vote for two board members. (No one registered to run for the board of the Mirador Public Improvement District on August 29.)

Maestas noted that registration closes on October 10, which is 28 days before the election and the first day of early voting. A new registration is required for change of address, name change, or change of political party. However, voters may now register at the polls and vote on the same day.

Due to the new election law that passed in the 2023 legislative session, voters may sign up on the permanent absentee ballot list instead of reapplying every year. Also, felons who have completed their prison terms do not need to wait for paperwork to be able to register to vote.

Finally, Maestas announced that she is advocating for ranked choice voting and has spoken to the Council about it. She hopes to be able to invite subject matter experts to speak to the community in the fall.

## **Saenz and SALA**

Allan Saenz, a native of Costa Rica, has lived here for 18 years. He owns LA Network, which provides wireless connectivity. The company's mission is to provide better internet service with fiber to all the houses.

Six years ago Saenz rented the Reel Deal to show a Star Wars movie at a party. He wanted to repeat the experience last year, but found it sad to be in a closed theater. He noted that theaters are closing elsewhere, too, because the audiences are diminishing. Not wanting our theater to be converted into offices or apartments, he purchased it with a partner, Sammi Owens, and opened the SALA Event Center in December. He intends it to be "a business for all ages." The center can host multiple events including birthday parties, meetings, presentations, karaoke night....

Saenz said that during the Oppenheimer Festival he learned a lot about Oppenheimer, but the festival was a lot of work! He has now reconfigured two of the former theater spaces. In one theater he removed all of the seats and risers. It served as an art gallery during the Oppenheimer Festival. He is planning to turn the space into a 360° immersive experience of sound and video and is hoping UNM-LA and the high school will create programs there to teach students about the film industry. He has applied for and received grants that he is using to purchase cameras, projectors, and a server. He has also applied to the County for a LEDA grant to create a "gateway immersive experience" for visitors and the community, saying that it aligns with a lot of the County's goals.



*SALA founder Allan Saenz. Courtesy Photo.*



In the other remodeled theater, the screen is still in place, but now comfy chairs face the stage to encourage discussion during community talks. The League participated in an event there last spring about the history of women's right to vote.

Saenz wants to work with other northern NM communities to develop programs, offer entertainment, and rental spaces. However, for the changes he envisions, the center must be funded by members and sponsors. He needs community support to be sustainable. Saenz asked, "What kind of town do we want?" If we don't want to be a bedroom community, we must invest, we must make certain that SALA is successful. Everyone is invited to support SALA by becoming members.

[For more information, go to [Sala.losalamos.com](http://Sala.losalamos.com) and then click on "Become a member."]

*Barbara Calef*

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## ***Tickler Report – Tentative Council Agenda Items***

(There is no County BCC vacancies list this month.)

**Tickler Report**  
**Tentative Council Agenda Items**  
**for September 2023**

This is a partial list of tentative Council agenda items. All of the items are subject to change.

- Short-term Rental Program process
  - Presentation at 9/05/23 meeting
- Comprehensive Health Plan & General Social Services
  - Briefing at 9/05/23 meeting
- New County Public Website
  - Presentation at 9/05/23 meeting
- Electric Energy & Power Coordination Agreement between Los Alamos County and DOE
  - Briefing and possible action at 9/26/23 meeting
- Environmental Consulting Services regarding Transfer of US Forest Service Land to Los Alamos County
  - Approval of service agreement requested at 9/26/23 meeting



## LWVLA Board of Directors 2023-2024



*The new League board after our first in-person meeting, left to right: Rebecca Chaiken, Amy Birnbaum, Jean Dewart, Akkana Peck, Barbara Calef, Felicia Orth, Addie Jacobson, Lynn Jones, Ellen Mills, Becky Shankland, Karyl Ann Armbruster, Jody Benson. Missing from photo: Bob Williams. Photo by Susanna Marshland.*

### Officers:

- President: Felicia Orth
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: [open]
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Ellen Mills
- Past President: Barbara Calef
- Secretary: Rebecca Chaiken
- Treasurer: Addie Jacobson

### Directors:

- Reservations: Amy Birnbaum
- Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster
- Newsletter Editor: Robert Williams
- Publicity: Jody Benson
- Director at Large: Akkana Peck
- Director at Large: Rebecca Shankland
- Voter Services: Lynn Jones

### Off-board Directors:

- Arrangements: Wendy Swanson
- Nominating Committee: [open]
- Fundraising: Ellen Mills, Leslie Wallstrom, and Tracy McFarland
- Observer Corps: June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin
- Membership: Jean Dewart
- Website/Social Media: Madhavi Garimella and Helena Whyte
- Video: Eduardo Santiago



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Mail to: LWV Los Alamos / P.O. Box 158 / Los Alamos, NM 87544

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Categories:** All checks for memberships and contributions should be payable to LWV-Los Alamos and all are tax-deductible. Let us know if you'd like a tax-deduction statement. A substantial portion of Single and Household membership dues support state and national League of Women Voters work. The additional funds from Single Sustaining or Household Sustaining memberships support Los Alamos LWV initiatives such as the Voter Guide, candidate forums, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Single membership: \$45.

\_\_\_\_\_ Household membership (two or more people at the same address): \$70.

\_\_\_\_\_ Single Sustaining membership: \$75.

\_\_\_\_\_ Household Sustaining membership (two or more people at the same address): \$95.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student membership: Free (must be 16 or over).

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation to support the Los Alamos LWV work: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Newsletter Update** – Check here to receive it as an electronic file, saving postage and paper,

\_\_\_\_\_ **OR** Check here if you prefer to have a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here to receive occasional friendly reminders of upcoming events by e-mail.

### Ways to help the League if you wish to be an active member (check as many as apply)

Name1 Name2

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Voter Registration at events such as the Farmers Market. Training by the County Clerk's office.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Organize/provide refreshments at forums when we meet in person.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Observer Corps: Watch Council, DPU, P&Z meetings etc. and write a short summary to publish in our newsletter. (All meetings are recorded, so you can watch them later.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Write newsletter articles on a local issue or League activity.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Assist in developing the Voter Guide: edit, develop questions, enter data onto League database, work with news publications to get the information printed, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Assist with Lunch with a Leader: assist in inviting leaders to give presentations; order/deliver lunches when we meet in person, help set up tables, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Website/social media: technical assistance and content development.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Advocate for League positions: communicate with local, state, and federal leaders.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Serve on the LWV-Los Alamos Board.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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